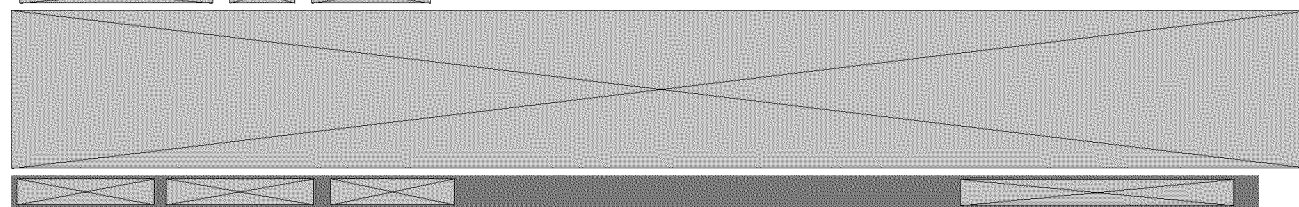


To: Meiburg, Stan[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov]
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Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night.

EPA Estimates Colorado Mine Release at 3 Million Gallons

Posted August 10, 2015, 3:54 P.M. ET

By [Tripp Baltz](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency says the release of toxic mine waste into the Animas River in southwest Colorado is estimated to be three times as large as initially thought.

The EPA Region 8 office in Denver said yesterday it is working with the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, in addition to other federal and state agencies, to determine the extent to which private drinking wells and wildlife are threatened by the spill, which has turned the Animas River orange.

EPA investigators triggered the spill Aug. 5 while working to address toxic mining waste at the Gold King Mine in the upper portions of Cement Creek near Silverton, Colo. The Animas flows into the San Juan River, which empties into the Colorado River at Lake Powell.

Sterilant Causes Cancer, Ammonia Harms Lungs, SAB Says

Posted August 10, 2015, 1:41 P.M. ET

By [Pat Rizzuto](#)

A chemical used to sterilize medical equipment and to decontaminate spices can cause leukemia and breast and other cancers, while ammonia can damage lungs, a panel of scientists advising the Environmental Protection Agency said.

The Science Advisory Board has issued critiques of a draft Integrated Risk Information System assessment the EPA conducted for ethylene oxide, used as a sterilant and to make antifreeze, and a draft assessment the agency completed for ammonia, which occurs naturally in the environment but also is used as a fertilizer. Both advisory board critiques supported the EPA's key draft findings but offered recommendations to make the agency's analyses easier to understand and more precise.

American Electric Power (AEP) Service Corp., Duke Energy Corp. and Koch Industries Inc. are among the

companies that made, or imported into the U.S., more than 38 billion pounds of ammonia in 2011, the most recent year for which chemical manufacturers had to submit production figures to the EPA.

BASF Corp., the Dow Chemical Co. and Eastman Chemical Co. are among the companies that made, or imported into the U.S., more than 5 billion pounds of ethylene oxide during that same year.

Rehearing Denied in Greenhouse Gas Permitting Case

Posted August 10, 2015, 10:20 A.M. ET

By [Andrew Childers](#)

A federal appellate court has denied industry groups' petitions to rehear challenges to the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas permitting requirements after the U.S. Supreme Court limited the program's scope.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Aug. 7 issued two per curiam orders denying petitions from the Coalition for Responsible Regulation, the Southeastern Legal Foundation and Competitive Enterprise Institute seeking a new hearing on legal challenges to the permitting requirements.

The D.C. Circuit had vacated provisions of the EPA's tailoring rule, which had limited permitting requirements to only the largest stationary sources, to the extent they require industrial sources to obtain prevention of significant deterioration or Title V permits solely due to their greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with a decision from the Supreme Court. The D.C. Circuit remanded the remainder of the rule to the agency to determine if further revisions were necessary, including addressing a requirement to set a de minimis threshold for greenhouse gas emissions below which industrial sources wouldn't need to obtain permits.

Clean Power Plan Extensions Have Catch: Outreach

Posted August 10, 2015, 4:12 P.M. ET

By [Andrew Childers](#) and [Rachel Leven](#)

States seeking additional time to develop compliance strategies for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan first must show that they have engaged with minority and at-risk populations.

The Clean Power Plan (RIN 2060-AR33), issued Aug. 3, establishes three criteria for states seeking an additional two years to develop their compliance plans, among them is demonstrating outreach to environmental justice communities.

The addition of that requirement to the Clean Power Plan is "the biggest achievement from the environmental justice perspective," said Alejandra Nunez, staff attorney at the Sierra Club.

"The final rule shows the EPA really listened to communities and the organizations that represent them," she told reporters today. As part of the final rule, states will have the option of submitting either their final plans or an initial presentation to the EPA by Sept. 6, 2016. States that choose to make that initial submission will have until Sept. 6, 2018, to complete their plans.

Taiwan Readies Pledge to Cut Emissions 50% by 2050

Posted August 10, 2015, 4:07 P.M. ET

By [Dean Scott](#)

Taiwan, one of the few developing nations to pass climate legislation requiring actual year-to-year reductions in its greenhouse gas emissions, also is readying a formal pledge to a global climate accord that nearly 200 nations are to sign at end-of-year United Nations talks in Paris, the country's environment minister told Bloomberg BNA today.

While the rapidly developing island nation has a \$1 trillion annual economy ranked 22nd largest in the world, it is not a formal party to international climate negotiations toward the climate agreement. But it has for years sought formal observer status giving it a seat at the negotiating table. Its decision to join the U.S., China, the European Union and dozens of others parties that have offered pledges to the climate deal ahead of the Paris talks will likely draw

attention to its plight.

Kuo-Yen Wei, Taiwan's environment minister, said the country will submit its pledge, known in UN parlance as its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, during the next few months and will include policies for adapting to climate change. It will pledge emissions cuts "close" to those it set under a domestic climate law, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, which passed Taiwan's legislature in June. The greenhouse gas law calls for a 50 percent emissions cut by 2050 from 2005 levels.

DOE Reports Highlight Growth in U.S. Wind Energy

Posted August 10, 2015, 3:21 P.M. ET

By [Rebecca Kern](#)

The U.S. wind industry grew 8 percent from 2013 to 2014, reaching a total of nearly 66 gigawatts of wind capacity, according to new reports from the Energy Department.

In 2014, wind energy made up 4.9 percent of end-use electricity demand. The U.S. ranks second to China in the amount of installed wind capacity, according to the [market report](#) on wind technologies.

The department also released a distributed wind [market report](#) for 2014, which found that the 74,000 wind turbines have reached a distributed wind cumulative capacity of 906 megawatts. In 2014, 23 states added nearly 64 megawatts of new distributed wind capacity, the report found

"With declining costs and continued technological development, these reports demonstrate that wind power is a reliable source of clean, renewable energy for American homes and businesses," Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said in a statement released today.

UN Says Kyoto Protocol Countries 'Exceeded' Goals

Posted August 10, 2015, 4:00 P.M. ET

By Eric J. Lyman

Near-final accounting for the 2008-2012 commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol showed parties "collectively exceeded their original ambitions by a large margin," the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reported today.

The protocol's first commitment period required 36 industrialized countries to reduce emissions by an average of 5.4 percent compared to 1990 over the four-year period from 2008 to 2012. Though the period ended nearly three years ago, figures are still being compiled.

The UNFCCC was not specific in its [assessment](#), but said it will publish preliminary information on Sept. 30. It also said formal completion of the Kyoto treaty's first commitment period could help build momentum as all the world's nations seek to hammer out the first global climate agreement late this year in Paris.

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